

CIA/DCI/IAM 750505

SECRET/NF/CD/BUO--GREEK FORCES IN THE AEGEAN: FOLLOW-UP

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CRS/DSB
1H1129 Hq

7 May 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Recipients of 9 April Assessment on
Greek Forces on the Aegean Islands

SUBJECT : Greek Forces in the Aegean: Follow-up

Attached is the expanded estimate of the Greek order of battle in the Aegean Islands which was promised in the interim assessment on 9 April. Like the preceding memorandum, this represents a joint analysis of CIA/OSR and DIA.

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National Intelligence Officer
for Western Europe

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5 May 1975

MEMORANDUM

Greek Forces in the Aegean: Follow-up

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Recently acquired information [REDACTED] has provided additional detail concerning the strength of Greek forces on the six major Aegean islands. This information tends to confirm the judgment contained in our 9 April memorandum that a relatively large buildup of these forces has taken place since the Aegean crisis of last spring.

On the basis of the information currently available we estimate that regular military personnel on these islands in early April numbered approximately 22,000 men, and there are indications that additional personnel may have subsequently been deployed. Forces on the islands are equipped with approximately 130 tanks and 120 artillery pieces (75mm and larger), as well as numerous anti-aircraft guns, mortars and recoilless rifles. Of these forces approximately 16,000 men and most of the tanks and artillery have been sent to the islands since last spring's Aegean crisis, with the major part of the reinforcement effort coming after the Cyprus crisis of July and August.

It should also be noted that, in addition to the regular military personnel, the islands also contain National Guard and Gendarmerie forces -- generally averaging a lightly-armed reinforced battalion -- which would play an important role in their defense. The civilian population of the islands would also be called upon to assist in repelling any Turkish invasion and rifles have been allocated for their use.

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Attached is an island-by-island roundup of Greek military forces as we currently estimate them. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] some areas of uncertainty

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do remain. This is particularly true concerning the personnel and equipment of the units which were on the islands prior to the buildup. Many of these units are configured specifically for use there and their organizational structure thus differs from that of units stationed on the mainland. It is also not clear whether the anti-aircraft weapons on the islands are organized in separate battalion-size units or have been incorporated into the other units. Despite such estimative uncertainties, however, we believe that the thrust of the reporting indicates the approximate size and composition of Greek forces on the islands and the extent to which they have been reinforced since last spring.

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